

Klees wants online voting

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policy makers to change the law to increase voter turnout, he said.

In 2003, the Liberal government promised to increase voter turnout by 10 per cent, but turnout hit an all-time low in 2007, Mr. Wiseman pointed out. The government couldn't come up with a way to encourage more voters in a four-year period, but it was a ridiculous promise to make, Mr. Wiseman said.

"It's like saying, 'I'm going to make you go to the bathroom four times in an hour,'" he said. "There are things you can't control."

However, if politicians are serious about increasing the numbers at the polls, he has some suggestions. The province could make it mandatory to vote, as other governments have, including Australia. With mandatory voting, a fine is issued if a ballot is not cast during an election. Australia averages an 80-per-cent voter turnout.

"If they wanted it to be more like a carrot than a stick, they could give those who vote a tax credit," Mr. Wiseman said.

Newmarket-Aurora Conservative MPP Frank Klees thinks the changes are a step forward for Ontario, but said the election process still has a long way to go to catch up with today's society.

"I'm disappointed we haven't made more progress to catch up with technology," said the former Whitchurch-Stouffville MPP. "In a day and age where people do their banking online securely, I don't see why we can't vote online."

Not only would an online voting system make it easier and less time consuming for voters in their busy lives, it would also engage younger generations, he said.

For a full list of the changes for the Oct. 6 provincial election, visit wemakevotingeasy.ca

RIGHT ON TRACK



Jack Lemon, 7, (from left), Cole Carroll, 3, Avery Carroll, 7, and Adam Carroll, 5, cycle on the Connell-Franklin Track next to the Stouffville Arena Monday. The Civic Holiday long-weekend forecast is calling for mostly sunny skies.

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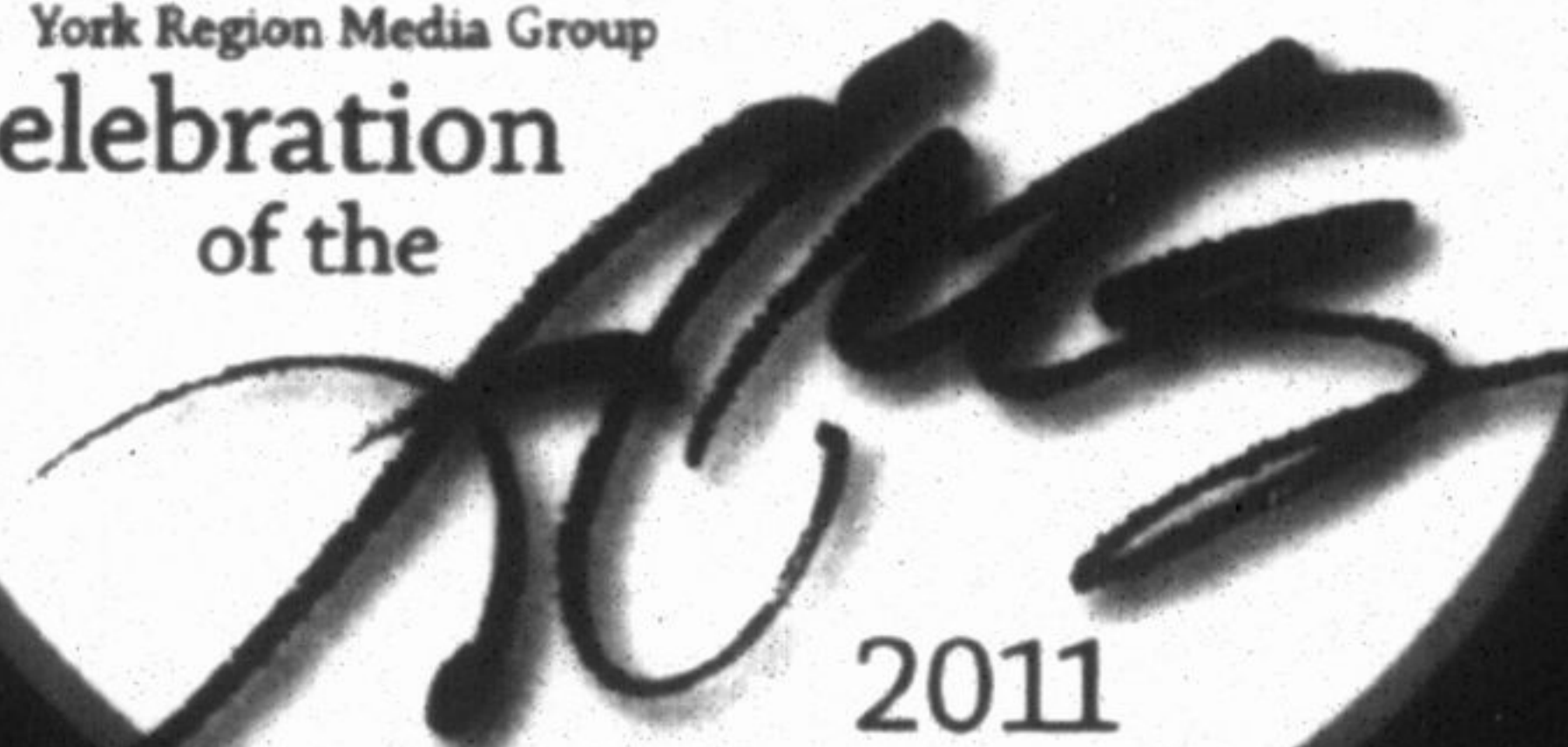
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